

Amendments to the Specification:

After the title but before the first paragraph, please insert the following new paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a 371 filing of PCT International application no. PCT/EP2005/001037 filed February 2, 2005 and published in German as WO 2005/076006 on August 18, 2005 which claims the priority of European application no. 04002355.8 filed February 3, 2004. The disclosures of these and all other patents, published applications and other references cited herein are hereby incorporated by reference in their entirety.

On a separate page, page 22, please insert the following abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for the early determination of the risk of mortality of patients in intensive care units or emergency care units during which the concentration of Cu/Zn superoxide dismutase (Cu/Zn SOD) in a serum sample or plasma sample of the patient is selectively determined, and quantitatively or semi-quantitatively measured concentrations, which exceed a predetermined threshold value are correlated with a high risk of mortality.